



# Saint Sharbel Maronite Catholic Church

Saint Sharbel, Pray for Us!

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[www.stsharbel.org](http://www.stsharbel.org)

## July 18, 2021

**The Mission of God's Messenger**



### Next Sunday

***The Apostles Proclaim the Kingdom***

**1 Cor 12:1-11 (Unity and Variety)**

**Mt 12:22-32 (Jesus and Beelzebul)**

## Your Gifts To God

***Offering Report for July 4th - 10th***

Online.....\$930.00

Collection.....\$718.00

Weekly Total.....\$1,648.00

YTD Total.....\$51,323.47

YTD Goal.....\$51,688.00

YTD Difference.....**-\$364.53**

## Liturgy Intentions

Sunday, July 18th, 11:00am

+Jack Doyle Fetterman

Monday, July 19th

Available

Tuesday, July 20th

Available

Wednesday, July 21st

+Ken Rathjen

Thursday, July 22nd

Available

Friday, July 23rd

Available

Saturday, July 24th

Available

Sunday, July 25th

Available

***Adoration/Exposition every Sunday at 10:00 am before the morning Liturgy.***

***Confession every Sunday 10:35-10:50am before the morning Liturgy.***

***Also join us to pray the Rosary on Sundays at 10:30 am before the Liturgy begins.***

## Altar Sponsorship

Sunday, July 18th

Redmond Family

Sunday, July 25th

Available

# Parish / Community Events

## MASS UPDATES:

Brothers and Sisters,

Given the bishop has removed the dispensation to attend Mass on July 1st (see letter below) we will be discontinuing our live streaming of the Holy Mysteries. We want to thank, and acknowledge Jonathan Zogbi for his devoted service every week over these past 15 months. I would like to formally invite everyone back to church. Mask use will be optional — wear a mask if you'd like. It's your preference beginning this weekend. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for your patience and generous support through this difficult period.

God Bless, Abouna

### Parish Council

Bruce Ashford

Charlie Ashou

Gus Bekahi

Nick El Hajj

Agopos Ghossein

Adib Karam

+Claude Karam

Anne Marentette  
(Secretary)

+Doug Raab

+Thaddeus Rask

Nadia Redmond

Mitch Siekmann

Ex Officio

+Deacon Tony

+Deacon Wadih

+Finance  
Committee

**\*\*SUNDAY MASS TIME\*\***

11:00am

Confessions: 10:35-10:50am

**St Sharbel Feast and Picnic**

**Sunday, July 18**

THANK YOU FOR RSVP-ing!



# **Reflection**

**Lk 4:14-21**

“Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing,” our Lord tells us. What our Lord refers to is a prophecy from Isaiah that the Father sent Him to proclaim good news to the poor, bring freedom to prisoners, recover the sight of the blind and liberate the oppressed (Is. 61:1,2). These are quite remarkable objectives our Lord says have been fulfilled in our hearing. But though He says they have been fulfilled, we are still saddled with all the burdens of our life. What kind of good news and freedom has liberated us if we still endure the misery and constraint of the same old?

The Old Testament, as recorded by the prophets, often had an immediate historical meaning. In the case of Isaiah, he spoke for God promising the Jews that they would be returned to the Holy Land from their forced exile and deportation to far Eastern lands. But God did not simply wish to speak to the exiles of that short time through Isaiah, but all who suffer the more serious and permanent exile and enslavement under sin and death. If the Old Testament was purely historical and literal, we would not read it today. But the word was revealed to prepare all for the coming of the fulfillment of all: the Word God, Jesus Christ.

When Christ says He has come to announce good news to the poor and liberate the oppressed, it is clearly understood in a different way from those who listened to Isaiah centuries before. Christ came to free us as prisoners of Satan and break the shackles of death. To His enemies, it seemed He was defeated Himself – He was publicly beaten and executed. But He descended to the dead to liberate them, and by His Mysteries, He has given us life.

The Scriptures He has given us, both through the prophets in the Old Testament and the evangelists and Apostles in the New Testament, prepare us once again for the Coming of the Lord. They are our means of knowing the liberation and freedom that Christ has granted us by His life-giving life, death and resurrection. As St. Ephrem explains, Scripture is an inexhaustible fountain, which quenches the thirst of the soul. We should return to it again and again like water – never would we stop drinking water simply because we are tired of drinking for we need it to live. Likewise, the Scriptures are so rich the wealth of revelation can never be fully comprehended, yet repeated use of it brings about life and health of the soul.

Fulfilled in our hearing of the Scriptures is the reception of our good news, freedom, healing and liberation, which Christ brought us by His coming. We have the means to these in reading the Sacred Scriptures. Each book of Scripture is like a piece of armor – one a shield, one a sword, one a helmet, one a breastplate, and the like. One would not go into battle without armor, and likewise one should not enter the conflict of the world without Scripture, often polished and sharpened by daily reading. Of course, one can misuse armor – if one puts a helmet on one’s foot, it not only does not work, but would probably be a hindrance. Likewise, Scripture does have proper interpretation. Not only has God sent us His revelation through the saintly prophets, evangelists and apostles, but also the means to interpret them in the Church – the great fathers, such as Ephrem the Syrian, Jacob of Sarug, Origen, and John Chrysostom. Wonderful places to begin are Ephrem’s Commentary on Genesis or Jacob’s many homilies on the Gospel.

If we neglect the Scriptures, we neglect what Christ has wished to reveal to us about Himself throughout thousands of years of revelation. But if we listen to them attentively, we shall find the good news and liberation which Christ Jesus has promised us.





## *Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon of Los Angeles*

June 30, 2021

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Greetings and Peace!

The past year and a half has been a difficult and painful time for many of us as the COVID-19 Pandemic raged at home and abroad but now we see the light at the end of the tunnel. We are finally able to return to gather with our families and friends, and most importantly, to gather as a community of Christian faithful.

As of **July 1, 2021**, the canonical dispensation from attending the Divine Liturgy will be completely lifted in our Eparchy, with a call on everyone to return to their second home and give the proper respect due to God. All of our Churches continue to take the proper health and safety precautions and follow the CDC requirements.

Please find below the list of guidelines for General Consideration:

- Liturgical celebration and other religious services are allowed indoors without limitations on capacity or social distancing.
- Masses may be celebrated without restrictions.
- The Holy Communion may be given by intinction or on the hand but will be at the Pastor's discretion.
- Holy Water will be available.
- Hymnals, missalettes, bulletins, and offertory baskets will be reinstated at the discretion of the Pastor.
- The Sign of Peace during Mass will also be reinstated at the discretion of the Pastor.
- We ask those who are not fully vaccinated or unable to receive the vaccine to continue to wear masks during any gatherings. Masks are not required for those who have received the full dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. We ask Parishes to post signs stating mask use for unvaccinated attendees. Vaccination verification is not required.
- Parishes may resume gatherings including social gatherings, group gatherings, and prayer meetings while observing the proper health measurements.
- Our parishes will continue to diligently clean the Churches after services and provide hand sanitizer for those in attendance.

Letter from Bishop A. Elias Zaidan

June 30, 2021

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- Those who are homebound, seriously ill, or immunocompromised will be exempted from the obligation to attend Mass.
- Live-streamed Divine Liturgical service continuation will be at the discretion of the Pastor and according to local needs.

We are joyous to welcome you back home and to celebrate the Divine Liturgy once again as a community. As Jesus said, "For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them" (Matt 18:30). We have been physically, emotionally, and psychologically distant from each other and our Church for a long time, it is now time for us to celebrate and rejoice together.

My brother priests and I welcome all of you back with open hearts and open arms. We look forward to seeing you and your families back at the Liturgies and connecting once again with the greater community.

With my sincere best wishes and prayers, I remain

Yours in Christ,

+A. Elias Zaidan

Bishop of the Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon of Los Angeles

**Gibran N Zogbi**

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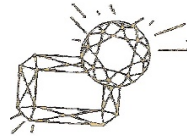
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